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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 668
By Whitson

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Cecile Cox Quillen.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Cecile Cox Quillen; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Quillen was an exemplary public servant and humanitarian who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a native of Greene County, she was the eldest daughter of Emory M. Cox Sr. and Linnie Lee Spears Cox; and

WHEREAS, Cecile Cox was the wife of former longtime U.S. Representative Jimmy Quillen and provided invaluable support to him during his many years of public service; and

WHEREAS, the Quillens shared a singular companionship and love of family, community, and each other; many times, the congressman said that his wife was "the best helpmate a man could ever hope for"; and

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WHEREAS, in addition to supporting her husband's endeavors, Mrs. Quillen was herself quite an active community leader; among her many activities were memberships in the Congressional Club, Long Island Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary, Order of the Eastern Star, Women of the Moose, Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities, Republican Congressional Wives, and Tennessee Federation of Republican Women; and

WHEREAS, having struggled for many years with illnesses, Mrs. Quillen earned the respect and admiration of her friends and family and of the medical community of East Tennessee for the dignity and courage with which she faced her infirmities; and

WHEREAS, her struggle with, and recovery from, a cerebral hemorrhage and stroke led the Tennessee Association of Home Health to name its annual award for her in 1983; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Quillen and her husband were devoted, unrelenting supporters of the East Tennessee medical community; in large part, the region's excellent medical facilities and standard of care can be attributed to the praiseworthy efforts of the Quillens; and

WHEREAS, Chairs of Excellence in geriatrics and gerontology are named in her honor at the Johnson City medical school that bears her husband's name, the James H. Quillen College of Medicine at East Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, in 1991, Johnson City Medical Center dedicated the James H. and Cecile C. Quillen Center for Rehabilitative Medicine, recognizing the unsurpassed contributions of the estimable couple; and

WHEREAS, before joining Jimmy Quillen in holy matrimony on August 9, 1952, Mrs. Quillen served with acumen and alacrity in positions at Oak Ridge National Laboratory and Eastman Chemical Company, garnering high praise from her peers for her character and work ethic; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian, Mrs. Quillen was an active member of the First Broad Street United Methodist Church, where she was a beloved inspiration to many; and

WHEREAS, Cecile Quillen was also deeply devoted to her family, and she always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; she cherished the love of her husband and treasured the companionship that she shared with each member of her family; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Quillen leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Cecile Cox Quillen, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mrs. Quillen.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.